

Virginia Department of Veterans Services

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News Release

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Tidewater Veterans Benefit Services Office Relocating

NORFOLK—The Veterans benefit services office operated by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) is relocating to 6350 Center Drive, Building 5, Suite 100, in Norfolk. Currently the DVS office is located at 6315 North Center Drive in Norfolk. The office will be open for business at the new location on February 27, 2007.

“Our new location is only a block from our current location,” said Senior Veterans Service Representative Johnny Beale. “However, our new space is on the ground floor and is easily accessible. The office is more spacious and can accommodate wheel chairs and electric scooters without any problem.”

Veterans service representatives like Beale, work one-on-one with veterans and their families helping them obtain benefits and entitlements on a local, state and federal level. Beale and seven other representatives in the Tidewater office help veterans apply for medical services, disability benefits due to disease or injury incurred during or aggravated by time-in-service, or disability benefits due to secondary medical conditions resulting from a service connection. “For example, Diabetes Mellitus, type II, is presumptive by law to be associated with exposure to Agent Orange. Veterans exposed to Agent Orange should file a claim to obtain assistance in treating their diabetes,” explained Beale.

DVS representatives also assist with other types of claims, such as veterans compensation and pension claims, dependency and indemnity compensation for widows/widowers and children of disabled veterans, widows’ pensions, dependents’ education, veteran home loans and death benefit claims. In short, DVS veterans service representatives are advocates for veterans and

their family members. They help veterans with their paperwork, track the claim with the VA, and represent veterans if they need to appeal a claim.

Statewide, the Department of Veterans Services operates 20 benefits offices where veterans can work with veterans service representatives. The agency operates two cemeteries for veterans: the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia and the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. A third veterans cemetery in Dublin, Virginia is in the initial stages of development. The agency operates the Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC) in Roanoke. The VVCC is a long-term care facility offering nursing and domiciliary care for veterans. The Sitter-Barfoot Veterans Care Center is under construction in Richmond and is slated to open in 2007. The agency also certifies that post-secondary educational institutions meet G.I. Bill funding and eligibility requirements, enabling veterans and family members to pursue educational opportunities.

For more information about the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, visit www.virginiaforveterans.com. To reach the DVS Tidewater office, call (757) 455-0814.

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